

# The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society

## NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 32, ISSUE TWO

JUNE 2013

### *The Tradition Continues! Patriotic Music, Fireworks Fun in Village Park Who Could Ask for More?*

Stake your claim in Village Park *early on July 5 to get a great view of the fireworks AND the very best spot to hear the wonderful Mercer County Symphonic Band! Patriotic tunes and seasonal favorites will get your toes tapping!*

*The annual tradition of enjoying the 4th on the 5th continues! Bring a picnic dinner, a blanket, the bug spray and your friends and neighbors. Get ready to celebrate our nation's independence in all its glory! The concert begins at 6:30pm.*



Photo by Audrey Smith

Members of the New Jersey Civil War History Association held a ceremony at the Civil War Monument in Memorial Park on Memorial Day. This ceremony followed one that they held a few minutes earlier at the Civil War Soldiers Monument in Brainerd Cemetery.

### **President's Message**

The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society has had a very productive spring. Over the last months it has been truly inspiring to witness all of the Society's dedicated volunteers as they have continued to support our Museum, The History Center, The Walking Tours and Educational Programs, our membership drive, fundraising, and many more of the Society's ongoing projects. A hearty thanks goes out to all of our members for their continued participation. It is their selfless service that makes The Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society such a remarkable organization.

On Saturday, May 18th, freshman Maggie Welch, her dad, Chris, and Maggie's Princeton High School classmates ran the CHPS table at Cranbury's Drug Free Fair. Our table included coloring sheets of historic figures and sites in town, as well as a, "guess your Cranbury knowledge," question and answer sheet. The Society thanks all those who participated in this event. It was a wonderful way to reach out to the children in town and everyone appeared to have a terrific time.

I would also like to thank Museum Curator, Lisa Beach, her son John Beach, his friend, Evan Pavley, and Vice-President, Gale Scott, for giving their time and efforts to the decorating of the CHPS float for Cranbury's Memorial Day Parade. This is the second year that John and Evan volunteered to help decorate the float and we are so grateful for their continued commitment to the Society. Their sense of community spirit, as high school students, is really quite remarkable! Rob Diamond, our Website Manager, also generously donated the float and the truck and allowed the boys to decorate the float in his barn during the May storms. Clearly, we couldn't have participated in the parade without the help of Rob and these volunteers and our gratitude goes out to all of them.

This year's float celebrated the historical significance of Goodwin's Band, Cranbury's first brass band to give concerts at The Brainerd Lake Bandstand and throughout New Jersey starting in 1915.

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## 2013 Historic Cranbury House Tour ~ "A New Generation"

The House Tour Committee is pleased to announce that seven historic Cranbury homes will be a part of this year's house tour to be held on Saturday, September 28, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. The tour will also include the Cranbury Museum, the Cranbury History Center, the Firehouse Museum, the Gourguad Gallery and two churches.

Advance sale tour tickets are \$20.00 each, and advance sale tickets for the 'Box and a Book' gourmet box luncheon are \$15.00 each. The luncheon menu includes the Friends of the Cranbury Public Library's signature curried pumpkin soup, chicken salad, a dinner roll, salad, dessert, coffee and tea.

Tickets for the house tour and the luncheon can be purchased by sending a self-addressed stamped business envelope to House Tour Tickets, 6 S. Main St., Cranbury, NJ 08512, or by purchasing online at [cranbury-history.org](http://cranbury-history.org). Checks should be made payable to Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society. **Tickets are also available at Around the Garden, Charmed by Claire, Cranbury Bookworm, Cranbury History Center, Cranbury Museum, Sotheby's Realty, and Twice As Nice Consignment in Cranbury.**

Tour tickets may be purchased for \$25.00 each on the day of the tour at the House Tour table in front of Charmed by Claire at 33 N. Main St., Cranbury. Please call Audrey Smith at 609-655-5361 for tickets or to help in any way. We would like to have your help and support for this important Society fundraiser.

### Congratulations to John Whiteclay Chambers II

His book, *Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present* has been awarded a Leadership in History Award of Merit for outstanding local history from the American Association for State and Local History, 2013.

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We were lucky enough to get Cranbury's very own "Music Man," band leader, Jerry Yochelson, to lead The Cranbury Scout Band as they depicted Goodwin's Band. The Scouts all wore hats and uniforms and played many of the nostalgic songs of yester-year while parading through town on the float. They were a big hit and are planning another concert at The Parsonage Barn this summer!

I applaud all the youth of Cranbury who lent their talents to these Spring events. An important part of preserving a town's history is the passing of the torch of acquired knowledge and community spirit from one generation to the next. I think the townspeople of Cranbury, young and old, are doing an amazing job of this and I am most grateful to be a part of it all.

In closing, I want to wish you a wonderful summer. May your days be filled with artful adventures and fair weather. I hope to see you at all our exciting events this coming fall!

*Jo D. Sechler Andrews, President*

### Hunt for History

CHPS participated in Cranbury Public Library's "Hunt for History" by providing a gift certificate to the winners of the contest, a One Book, One Cranbury Program. The questions were prepared using *Cranbury: A New Jersey Town from the Colonial Era to the Present* by John Whiteclay Chambers II and from the *CHPS Historic Cranbury, A Walking Tour* booklet. Participants searched for answers throughout the town, while learning about Cranbury's history. Winners of the contest were Paul and Catharine Argiriou.

*I ♥ Cranbury!*

Unique items at the History Center of a "Cranbury" nature include framed photo collages; Museum and Town Hall serving trays; Museum note cards; vintage scene note cards; Museum plates; women's shirts; mugs; a Museum utensil holder; "I Love Cranbury" buttons; aprons in two sizes; wooden ornaments; afghans; post cards, matted prints, books, and booklets and more! Historic Cranbury pillows, custom made in the building of your choice, may be ordered. Please stop by the History Center any Thursday between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to see these special items. If you can't visit the History Center when it is open, please call Audrey Smith at 609-655-5361 to arrange a convenient time.

## *The Look of Love...*

### *Bridal Fashions of the 20th Century*

Every wedding dress has a tale to tell. Now through July 28, the Society presents some of those stories in *"The Look of Love: Bridal Fashions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century"* featuring wedding gowns, bridal accessories, gifts, photographs and other marriage memorabilia from 1900 to 2000.

The gowns displayed show the shift in fashion from the Edwardian era of fragile silk and delicate lace, to the glamorous clinging satins of the 1930s, through the demure but elaborate dresses of the 1950s and the anything-goes attitudes of the 1970s.

Jane Huff, a longtime Cranbury resident, contributed her own wedding dress, an above-the-knee number featuring an iconic seventies-style pointed collar and a gold metallic belt.

She also lent the museum a special doll, dressed in a more traditional white gown whose fabric dates to 1933, the year her mother wed.

"My mother cut up her wedding dress and made it into doll dresses for her daughters," Ms. Huff said. "She thought none of us would want to wear her dress, so that was her way of passing it on."

Next to Ms. Huff's "mod" dress is a 1980s confection of a gown with the poufy sleeves and billowing skirt that Princess Diana turned into a must-have style for brides of that day.

Also represented is a classic Priscilla of Boston gown worn in 1972 by Karen Kelley who, with Lisa Beach, are the curators who put the exhibit together.

Also featured are typical wedding gifts from the day when all brides chose china patterns, picked out sterling silver flatware and crystal goblets—often monogrammed.

But some of the items are most interesting because of the history behind them—like Jerry Pevahouse's collection of photographs and letters that tell the four-generation story of his in-laws, a family from Germany and Poland that immigrated to Middlesex County

The one thing all the items have in common is that someone cared enough to save them, right down to the delicate kid shoes that resident Peggy Brennan's mother Pauline Spahr wore at her wedding in 1935. Her full length satin dress is also on display, along with a news clipping that, like most wedding write-ups of that era, described the event in

great detail, in this case right down to the "string of delphinium in a prayer book" carried by the bride.

"My mother always kept her wedding dress—for as far back as I can remember it was hanging in her attic," Ms. Brennan said. Like many brides, she treasured that gown as long as she lived.



*One of the lovely bridal gowns on display at the Museum in its current exhibit, "The Look of Love — Bridal Fashions of the Twentieth Century." The exhibit will remain on display until July 28.*

### **Parsonage Barn News**

Our beautiful barn was once again the setting for wedding photos on Saturday, June 1. The wedding party arrived from Staten Island late in the afternoon, posed for photos inside and outside of the barn, and then went on to the wedding reception at the Cranbury Inn. To schedule a visit or an event at the barn, please inquire at [parsonagebarn@gmail.com](mailto:parsonagebarn@gmail.com).

*Please see "Dates to Remember" on the back cover for other upcoming events and programs at the Parsonage Barn.*

## Fossils of New Jersey Coming to Cranbury Museum August 11, 2013

During the summer of 1858 William P Foulke heard of giant bones found in a marl pit near Haddonfield, NJ. The bones were first uncovered in 1838 by John Estauagh Hopkins. Foulke's interest in fossils drove him to investigate Hopkin's discovery and to find the first almost complete dinosaur skeleton. This was the landmark discovery of early American paleontology which almost immediately attracted the interest of scientists. Due to the Civil War, work studying and mounting the skeleton at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences wasn't completed until 1868.

Few New Jersey residents know of the many New Jersey sites where significant discoveries have been made. The Ellisdale site along Crosswicks Creek in Monmouth County produced significant discoveries of the bones of early mammals and dinosaurs that lived at a time when they existed together.

The Sayreville clay pits have produced more different species of early insects preserved in fossil amber than any site in the United States. The American Museum of Natural History has a significant collection of unique early insects from the 92 million year old Cretaceous era clay deposit at Sayreville. Also the longest single trail of dinosaur tracks found in NJ were uncovered by quarry workers there during the 1930s.

During the late ice age the sea level dropped about 300 feet causing the NJ shore to extend 90 miles farther out to sea. The remains of animals that lived on this area of dry land the size of present day NJ are routinely found by scallop fishing boats dredging the sea bottom. Mastodon, mammoth, caribou and walrus bones are occasionally brought up in their nets.

The Cranbury Museum is hosting an exhibit of fossils of New Jersey which will span from 250 million to 10,000 years ago. The exhibit will be at the museum from mid- August through mid-November.



This is a photo of 10, 000 year old mastodon teeth found by scallop fishermen in the ocean off the shore of New Jersey

## Goodwin's Band is back and better than ever!

The Society would like to send out a big thank you to the Cranbury Scout Band from Troop 52 for their generous participation in this year's CHPS Memorial Day Float.

The Scout Band lead by Jerry Yochelson, portrayed members of Goodwin's Band. James W. Goodwin, a Cranbury shopkeeper, was a hugely successful band leader from the late 1870's until his death in 1914.

Goodwin's band played all sorts of parties and social events in town. Eventually, the band's popularity spread throughout the state.

### "Goodwin's Band" members are:

**Flute:** Shannon Addonizio, Rutha Chivate, Melissa LeDonne and Lillian Santoro; **Clarinet:** Warren Santoro, Isabela Santos  
**Alto Saxophone:** Chris Gittings, Jonny Gittings & Sam Harshbarger  
**Tuba —** Dave Stewart  
**Bass Drum —** Vicki Addonizio

The CHPS would once again like to thank Rob Diamond for his generosity in loaning us the flat-bed (float), allowing us to use his barn to decorate the float and for pulling the float throughout the parade route. Evan Pavley and John Beach, great job on the decorations!



Is that the famous Goodwin's Band traveling down Main Street on Memorial Day? Almost. The Cranbury Scout Band, led by Jerry Yochelson, did their best rendition of the turn of the 20th century band that regaled townsfolk so long ago. Do you know that there once was a bandstand that perched over Brainerd Lake on Main Street? Goodwin's Band often performed there.

*Photo courtesy Fay Kobland*

## Membership News

We welcome our newest members: Around the Garden Boutique, Susan Attix, Matt & Jane Curran, Jean Dunham, Edward & Sharon Dredger, Gordon & Joan Fraser, Douglas & Martha Frenia, Kearney Kuhlthau, Molto Bene, Sally O'Grady and the Staples Family.

The wonderful activities you read about in this newsletter would not be possible without the active support and commitment of our members. There are so many ways to get involved - whether you want to serve on a committee or work from home, prefer short or long-term projects or simply want to participate in a single event. Let us know how you would like to participate.

We are grateful for the support of our business partners. Please stop in and show your appreciation by supporting their businesses:

A. S. Cole Son & Company	Golisano General Contracting, LLC
Allen & Stults Co., Inc.	Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc
Around The Garden Boutique	Herr's Plumbing
Brainerd Communications;	Meyer & Meyer Painting
Chip Trucking Inc.	Molto Bene
Cranbury Comfort Systems	Princeton Ballet School
Cranbury Pizza	Sweetwater Construction Corp.
The Elms of Cranbury	West Pattern Works
Gil and Bert's Ice Cream	Dr. Dennis J. White



**With deepest gratitude, Ruth Jost , (609)235-9078; Karen Fiorentini (609)655-2180; Jill Staples (609)655-7581; Arlene Duran**

### 2013 MEMBERSHIP

Mail checks to: **Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society**. 6 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512

**Membership Status (check one):** \_\_\_New \_\_\_Renewal

**Membership Category (check one):** \_\_\_Individual, \$15.00 \_\_\_Family, \$25.00 \_\_\_Sponsor, \$35.00  
\_\_\_Patron, \$50.00 or more \_\_\_Corporate, \$150.00 or more

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the Society via email. Please use the address above.

I would like to receive news and updates via email.

*Matching gifts are a significant source of support for the Society. If you work (or have retired from) one of the hundreds of companies that generously match employee donations, please don't let this opportunity pass you by. Just ask your Personnel Office for a Matching Gift form, fill it in and send it to us. We'll do the rest. Together we can continue to preserve our unique heritage.*

Please consider one or more of the following volunteer opportunities:

Museum docent:\_\_\_ Social functions:\_\_\_

House tour:\_\_\_ Educational programs:\_\_\_ Fundraising:\_\_\_ Publicity:\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## Dates to Remember

### **Through Sunday, July 28, 1-4 p.m.**

"The Look of Love — Bridal Fashions of the Twentieth Century" at Cranbury Museum

### **Sunday, July 5, 11 a.m.**

Historic Cranbury Walking Tour

### **July 5, 6:30 p.m.**

Mercer County Symphonic Band concert will precede Fireworks at Village Park.

### **Friday, July 12, 11 a.m.**

Historic Cranbury Walking Tour

### **Tuesday, July 9, 6-8 p.m.**

CHPS at Gil & Bert's Ice Cream

### **Tuesday, July 16, 7-8 p.m.**

Rebecca Brunskill performs at the Parsonage Barn, Cranbury Neck Rd.

### **Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.**

Cranbury Scout Band performing as the historic "Goodwin's Band" at Parsonage Barn

### **Saturday, September 7, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.**

CHPS table on Cranbury Day

### **Saturday, September 28, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Historic Cranbury House Tour

### **Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Watercolorists Unlimited Art Exhibit at the Parsonage Barn



Our annual event at Gil & Bert's Ice Cream at 69 N. Main St. will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 6-8 p.m. **Please come out and support CHPS and enjoy Gil & Bert's** delicious ice cream served by our own wonderful Board members! A few popular Cranbury gift items will be on display.

Popular Cranbury gift items will be on display.

## Historic Walking Tours Scheduled

A few groups enjoyed walking tours in May and June and became more knowledgeable about Cranbury's history. If you would like to take a walking tour, there are still dates available. Tours will be given on Sunday, July 5 at 11 a.m., and Friday, July 12 at 11 a.m. To make a reservation, please call tour guide, Richard Moody at 609-651-0693. Tours leave from in front of Cranbury Museum at 4 Park Place East. Please check [cranburyhistory.org](http://cranburyhistory.org) for dates for fall tours.

Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society  
6 South Main St.  
Cranbury, NJ 08512

### **Cranbury Museum**

4 Park Place East

Open Sundays 1 to 4 and by appt.

Ph: 609/655-2611

### **Cranbury History Center**

6 South Main Street

Open Thursdays 10:30 to 1:30 & by appt.

Ph: 609/860-1889

Email: [historycenter@comcast.net](mailto:historycenter@comcast.net)

Web: [www.cranburyhistory.org](http://www.cranburyhistory.org)